

By Representative Hogan

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 6 as "Lymphedema D-Day" in Florida and expressing support for those who have lymphedema.

WHEREAS, lymphedema is an accumulation of lymphatic fluid which causes swelling in the arms, legs, or other areas of the body and affects both men and women, and

WHEREAS, the swelling caused by lymphedema can lead to severe infection or loss of the use of limbs, and patients who suffer from lymphedema must endure physical discomfort and disfigurement and must cope with the distress caused by these symptoms, and

WHEREAS, the single largest group of people who get lymphedema are cancer patients, including those who have breast, prostate, gynecological, head, neck, and lung cancer, sarcoma, and melanoma, and

WHEREAS, recent studies have indicated that 15-20 percent of breast cancer patients will get lymphedema after surgery and radiation, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute, there are a reported 8.5 million Americans living after a diagnosis of cancer, of whom about 2 million are breast cancer survivors, and

WHEREAS, no drug or effective surgical treatment for lymphedema currently exists, and

WHEREAS, research in all areas of lymphedema has been notably limited, and

WHEREAS, lymphedema, which has no cure and can occur any time, has a severe financial, physical, and psychological impact on patients, and

1 WHEREAS, each year on March 6, the National Lymphedema
2 Network sponsors Lymphedema D-Day to honor patients and to
3 raise awareness of the treatment and severity of this
4 condition, NOW, THEREFORE,

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6 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
7 Florida:

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9 That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes
10 March 6, 2001, as "Lymphedema D-Day" in Florida.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida House of
12 Representatives encourages the residents of this state to
13 honor and support the courageous patients who are living with
14 and coping with this debilitating condition.

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